

FILED IN THE
U.S. DISTRICT COURT
EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
MAY - 3 2022
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SPOKANE, WASHINGTON DEPUTY

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7 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
8 FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON

9 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

10 2:22-CR-52-TOR

11 Plaintiff,

12 INDICTMENT

13 v.

14 Vio: 18 U.S.C. § 371

15 Conspiracy to Commit Theft
16 of Government Property and
17 Possession of Stolen
18 Ammunition (Count 1)

19 JOHN I. SANGER,
20 ERIC A. EAGLETON,
21 SHAWN ROBSON,
22 NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS,
23 JONAH PIERCE, and
24 AUSTIN LIMACHER,
25 Defendants.

26 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2)
27 Possession of Stolen
28 Ammunition (Counts 2-9)

29 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5845(a),
30 5861(d), 5871
31 Possession of an Unregistered
32 Firearm (Counts 10-12)

33 18 U.S.C. § 641
34 Receiving Stolen Government
35 Property
36 (Counts 13-16)

37 18 U.S.C. § 924, 49 U.S.C. §
38 80303, 26 U.S.C. § 5872, 28
39 U.S.C. § 2461
40 Forfeiture Allegations

The Grand Jury charges:

General Allegations

1. At all times relevant to this indictment, the Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER, ERIC A. EAGLETON, SHAWN ROBSON, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, JONAH PIERCE, and AUSTIN LIMACHER, were enlisted servicemembers of the United States Air Force.

2. At all times relevant to this indictment, the Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER, ERIC A. EAGLETON, SHAWN ROBSON, JONAH PIERCE, and AUSTIN LIMACHER, resided within the Eastern District of Washington.

3. At all times relevant to this indictment, the Defendant, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, resided within the Eastern District of Washington and the District of Nevada.

4. At all times relevant to this indictment, the Defendant JOHN I. SANGER was assigned to the 92nd Logistics Readiness Squadron (92nd LRS), Fairchild Air Force Base, Airway Heights, Washington, within the Eastern District of Washington.

5. At all times relevant to this indictment, the Defendants, ERIC A. EAGLETON, SHAWN ROBSON, and AUSTIN LIMACHER, were assigned to the Combat Arms Training Management (CATM) section of the 92nd Security Forces Squadron (92 SFS) located on Fairchild Air Force Base, Airway Heights, Washington. JONAH PIERCE was assigned to the Armory on Fairchild Air Force Base, Airway Heights, Washington. All were within the Eastern District of Washington

6. On or about March 12, 2022, Defendant, NATHANIEL RICHARDS was assigned to the Fairchild Air Force Base CATM section. In early April 2022, RICHARDS conducted a permanent change of station move to ~~Nellis~~^{Creech} Air Force

INDICTMENT - 2

1 Base, Nevada. RICHARDS was assigned as the Non-Commission Officer-in-
2 Charge (NCOIC) of the ~~Nellis~~^{Creech} Air Force Base CATM section.

PPZ
5/3/2022

3 COUNT ONE

4 7. Beginning on a date unknown but by on or about March 12, 2022, and
5 continuing until April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington and
6 elsewhere, the Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER, ERIC A. EAGLETON, SHAWN
7 ROBSON, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, JONAH PIERCE, and AUSTIN
8 LIMACHER, knowingly and willfully combined, conspired, and agreed with each
9 other, and with others unknown, to commit the following offenses against the
10 United States:

- 11 a. To willfully and knowingly receive, conceal and retain stolen property of
12 the United States, that is, ammunition of a value in excess of \$1,000.00,
13 with intent to convert said property to their own use, then knowing said
14 property to have been stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.
15 b. To knowingly possess stolen ammunition, which had been shipped in
16 interstate or foreign commerce, to wit: approximately 14,000 rounds of
17 assorted ammunition; well knowing or having reasonable cause to believe
18 the ammunition was stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j) and
19 924(a)(2).

20 The Unlawful Object And Manner And Means Of The Conspiracy

21 8. The Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER, ERIC A. EAGLETON, SHAWN
22 ROBSON, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, JONAH PIERCE, and AUSTIN
23 LIMACHER, conspired and combined in furtherance of the common objective of
24 stealing military ammunition from the Fairchild Air Force Base CATM for
25 personnel use.

26 9. As further set forth herein and below, it was a part of the conspiracy that the
27 Defendants, and their known and unknown conspirators, would steal military

1 ammunition, property of the United States to which the Defendants had access by
2 means of their military service, and provide the stolen ammunition to the known
3 and unknown conspirators for their personal use and possession.

4 10. It was further part of the conspiracy that the Defendants would falsify
5 documentation in order to make it appear that the stolen ammunition had been
6 expended in the ordinary course of official military use.

7 11. It was further part of the conspiracy that the Defendants, and other known
8 and unknown conspirators, would divide up the stolen ammunition amongst
9 themselves for the personal use and possession of the conspirators individually and
10 as part of the conspiracy, and would discuss amongst themselves that the
11 ammunition was stolen military ammunition that had no cost to the conspirators.
12

Overt Acts

13 12. In furtherance of the conspiracy and to accomplish its objectives, the
14 Defendants and other co-conspirators committed, among others, the following
15 overt acts, some within the Eastern District of Washington:

16 a. On or about March 12, 2022, the Defendants, SANGER, EAGLETON,
17 RICHARDS, and others known and unknown to the grand jury,
18 conducted a shooting range day at Fishtrap Lake, near Sprague,
19 Washington, within the Eastern District of Washington. While at the
20 shooting range, the Defendants, SANGER, EAGLETON, RICHARDS,
21 and others known and unknown to the grand jury, fired various forms of
22 ammunition, specifically 5.56mm M855 green tip ammunition that was
23 stolen from the Fairchild Air Force Base CATM section.
24

25 b. At the conclusion of the shooting range, RICHARDS provided
26 SANGER a one-gallon Zip Loc bag containing approximately 300 to
27 350 rounds of 5.56mm M855 green tip ammunition.
28

- 1 c. RICHARDS informed SANGER the ammunition was stolen from the
- 2 Fairchild Air Force Base CATM section. RICHARDS further explained
- 3 that members of the CATM section falsified the records of a USAF
- 4 Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit's weapons qualification to
- 5 reflect this ammunition as having been expended. This provided
- 6 RICHARDS and the other CATM members the opportunity to divide the
- 7 ammunition amongst themselves.
- 8 d. SANGER subsequently provided an Air Force Office of Special
- 9 Investigations (OSI) Undercover Agent (U/C) approximately sixty (60)
- 10 rounds of this 5.56mm M855 green tip ammunition. Subsequently, Air
- 11 Force OSI special agents identified the sixty (60) rounds of ammunition
- 12 provided to the U/C by SANGER as having previously been produced
- 13 by the Lake City Army Ammunition Plant located in Independence,
- 14 Missouri.
- 15 e. Air Force OSI special agents conducted a review of CATM records and
- 16 determined CATM indicated the expenditure of 5.56mm M855 green tip
- 17 ammunition in the amount of 5,400 rounds on or about November 20,
- 18 2021.
- 19 f. On March 28, 2022, SANGER contacted the Air Force OSI U/C and
- 20 stated EAGLETON had contacted him (SANGER) regarding additional
- 21 stolen ammunition. The U/C inquired into the cost for the ammunition,
- 22 to which SANGER responded there would be no cost because the
- 23 ammunition was stolen.
- 24 g. On March 29, 2022, SANGER met with EAGLETON in the Northern
- 25 Quest Resort and Casino parking lot. EAGLETON handed SANGER a
- 26 green ammunition container. SANGER then texted the U/C that he
- 27 received the ammunition and provided a photograph of the ammunition.

- h. On April 2, 2022, SANGER and the U/C went shooting at the Fishtrap Lake shooting range. The U/C noted SANGER brought ammunition consistent with the type of ammunition stolen by CATM personnel.
 - i. The U/C recovered four ammunition clips containing approximately 40 rounds of 5.56mm frangible ammunition. The U/C also obtained a photograph of the green ammunition container brought by SANGER. The container indicated the contents were 5.56mm frangible ammunition, lot number FC-20A532-009.
 - j. Air Force OSI special agents reviewed CATM records and determined these rounds of ammunition were recorded as having been expended sometime between March 2, 2021 and July 12, 2021.
 - k. On April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, Federal Bureau of Investigation and Air Force OSI special agents located ammunition, consistent with the stolen ammunition, in the residences of SANGER, EAGLETON, ROBSON, PIERCE, and LIMACHER.
 - l. On April 26, 2022, in the District of Nevada, Air Force OSI special agents located ammunition, consistent with the stolen ammunition, in the residence of RICHARDS.

All in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 371. For the purpose of executing the scheme described above, the conspirators also committed the additional overt acts described below and detailed as separate counts.

COUNT 2

13. On or about March 12, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER, ERIC A. EAGLETON, and NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate commerce,

1 knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was stolen, in
2 violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

3 COUNT 3

4 14. On or about March 29, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
5 Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER and ERIC A. EAGLETON, knowingly possessed
6 stolen ammunition, that is 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped
7 and transported in interstate commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to
8 believe the ammunition was stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

9 COUNT 4

10 15. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
11 Defendant, JOHN I. SANGER, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is
12 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate
13 commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was
14 stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

15 COUNT 5

16 16. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
17 Defendant, ERIC A. EAGLETON, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is
18 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate
19 commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was
20 stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

21 COUNT 6

22 17. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
23 Defendant, SHAWN ROBSON, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is
24 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate
25 commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was
26 stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

1 COUNT 7
2

3 18. On or about April 1, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
4 Defendant, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, knowingly possessed stolen
5 ammunition, that is 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and
6 transported in interstate commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to
7 believe the ammunition was stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

8 COUNT 8
9

10 19. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
11 Defendant, JONAH PIERCE, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is
12 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate
13 commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was
14 stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

15 COUNT 9
16

17 20. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
18 Defendant, AUSTIN LIMACHER, knowingly possessed stolen ammunition, that is
19 5.56mm military ammunition, which had been shipped and transported in interstate
20 commerce, knowing and having reasonable cause to believe the ammunition was
21 stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2).

22 COUNT 10
23

24 21. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
25 Defendant, JOHN I. SANGER, knowingly received and possessed a firearm, to
26 wit: a Knight's Armament, model M4QD, 5.56mm silencer, bearing serial number
981376, not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer
Record, in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5845, 5861(d), and 5871.

27 COUNT 11
28

29 22. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
Defendant, ERIC A. EAGLETON, knowingly received and possessed a firearm, to

1 wit: a gold and bronze in color firearm suppressor, bearing no tax stamps,
2 markings, or serial number, not registered to him in the National Firearms
3 Registration and Transfer Record, in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5845,
4 5861(d), and 5871.

5 COUNT 12

6 23. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
7 Defendant, AUSTIN LIMACHER, knowingly received and possessed a firearm, to
8 wit:

- 9 - a firearm suppressor identified as a 6inch 5/8-24 Black New 1226, bearing
10 no tax stamp, markings, or serial number; and
11 - a firearm suppressor identified as a 6inch 1/2 -28 Black New 1226, bearing
12 no tax stamp, markings, or serial number,

13 not registered to him in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record, in
14 violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5845, 5861(d), and 5871.

16 COUNT 13

17 24. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
18 Defendant, SHAWN ROBSON, willfully and knowingly did receive, conceal and
19 retain stolen property of the United States, that is, one Aimpoint, M68, CompM4s,
20 Red Dot optic, bearing serial number K4592966, with intent to convert said
21 property to his own use, the Defendant, SHAWN ROBSON, then knowing said
22 property to have been stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

23 COUNT 14

24 25. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
25 Defendant, JONAH PIERCE, willfully and knowingly did receive, conceal and
26 retain stolen property of the United States, that is, one Aimpoint, M68, CompM4s,
27 Red Dot optic, bearing serial number K2593105, with intent to convert said

1 property to his own use, the Defendant, JONAH PIERCE, then knowing said
2 property to have been stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

3 COUNT 15

4 26. On or about April 1, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
5 Defendant, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, willfully and knowingly did receive,
6 conceal and retain stolen property of the United States, that is, a Target pointer
7 Illuminator Aiming Light, PEQ-15, bearing serial number 539627 and a Aimpoint,
8 M68, Red Dot Scope, bearing serial number K2577363, of a value exceeding
9 \$1,000, with intent to convert said property to his own use, the Defendant,
10 NATHAN RICHARDS, then knowing said property to have been stolen, in
11 violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

12 COUNT 16

13 27. On or about April 26, 2022, in the Eastern District of Washington, the
14 Defendant, AUSTIN LIMACHER, willfully and knowingly did receive, conceal
15 and retain stolen property of the United States, that is, three Aimpoint, M68,
16 CompM4s, Red Dot optics bearing serial numbers W2535246, K4592897, and
17 K4159277, of a value exceeding \$1,000, with intent to convert said property to his
18 own use, the Defendant, AUSTIN LIMACHER, then knowing said property to
19 have been stolen, in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641.

20 NOTICE OF CRIMINAL FORFEITURE ALLEGATIONS

21 The allegations contained in this Indictment are hereby realleged and
22 incorporated by reference for the purpose of alleging forfeitures.

23 Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), upon
24 conviction of an offense(s) in violation of 18 U.S.C. §§371, 641, 922(j), as set
25 forth in Count 1 of this Indictment, Defendants JOHN I. SANGER, ERIC A.
26 EAGLETON, SHAWN ROBSON, NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS, JONAH
27 PIERCE, and AUSTIN LIMACHER, and/or in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 641, as set
28

forth in Counts 13 – 16, Defendants, SHAWN ROBSON (Count 13), JONAH PIERCE (Count 14), NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS (Count 15), and AUSTIN LIMACHER (Count 16), shall forfeit to the United States any property, real or personal, which constitutes or is derived from proceeds traceable to the offense(s), all pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

If any of the property described above, as the result of any act or omission of Defendants:

- (a) cannot be located upon the exercise of due diligence;
- (b) has been transferred or sold to, or deposited with, a third party;
- (c) has been placed beyond the jurisdiction of the court;
- (d) has been substantially diminished in value; or
- (e) has been commingled with other property which cannot be divided without difficulty,

the United States shall be entitled to forfeiture of substitute property pursuant to 21 U.S.C. § 853(p), as incorporated by 18 U.S.C. § 981(a)(1)(C) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c).

Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 924(d)(1) and 28 U.S.C. § 2461(c), upon conviction of a violation of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922(j), 924(a)(2), as set forth in Counts 2 – 10 of this Indictment, Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER (Counts 2 - 4), ERIC A. EAGLETON (Counts 2, 3 and 5), NATHANIEL A. RICHARDS (Counts 2 and 7), SHAWN ROBSON (Count 6), JONAH PIERCE (Count 8) and AUSTIN LIMACHER (Counts 9 and 10) shall forfeit to the United States of America, any and all firearms and ammunition involved or used in the commission of the offense.

Pursuant to 49 U.S.C. § 80303, 26 U.S.C. § 5872 and 28 U.S.C. § 2461, upon conviction of an offense(s) in violation of 26 U.S.C. §§ 5841, 5845(a), 5861(d), 5871, as set forth in this Indictment, Defendants, JOHN I. SANGER (Count 11), ERIC A. EAGLETON (Count 12), and AUSTIN LIMACHER (Count

1 13), shall forfeit to the United States of America, any firearms involved or used in
2 the commission of the offense(s), including, but not limited to:

3 DEFENDANT, JOHN I. SANGER (Count 11)

4 a Knight's Armament, model M4QD, 5.56mm silencer, bearing serial
5 number 981376

6 DEFENDANT, ERIC A. EAGLETON (Count 12)

7 a gold and bronze in color firearm suppressor, bearing no tax stamps,
8 markings, or serial number,

9 DEFENDANT AUSTIN LIMACHER (Count 13)

10 a firearm suppressor identified as a 6inch 5/8-24 Black New 1226, bearing
11 no tax stamp, markings, or serial number; and

12 a firearm suppressor identified as a 6inch 1/2 -28 Black New 1226, bearing
13 no tax stamp, markings, or serial number

14 DATED this 3 day of May, 2022.

15
16 A TRUE BILL

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21
22 Vanessa Waldref
23 Vanessa R. Waldref
24 United States Attorney

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26
27 Patrick J. Cashman
28 Assistant United States Attorney